



# Department of Defense **DIRECTIVE**

April 5, 1995  
NUMBER 5134.11

---

USD (A&T)

SUBJECT: **Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office (DARO)**

**References:** (a) Deputy **Secretary of Defense** Memorandum, "Establishment of the Defense Airborne **Reconnaissance Office (DARO)**," November 6, 1993  
(b) Title 10, United States Code  
(c) DoD Directive 5134.1, "**Under** Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology," June 8, 1994  
(d) DoD Directive 5137.1, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for **Command**, Control, Communications, and Intelligence," **February** 12, 1992

## **A. PURPOSE**

Under reference (a), DARO was established as a DoD organization responsible for management oversight of the development and acquisition of all joint Military Department and Defense-wide airborne reconnaissance capabilities, encompassing manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, their sensors, data links, data relays, and ground stations, to include modifications of **Military** Department- and Defense Agency-unique ground stations to achieve and maintain interoperability. Under reference (b), this Directive serves as the charter of **DARO**.

## **B. APPLICABILITY**

This Directive applies to the **Office** of the Secretary of **Defense (OSD)**, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint **Chiefs** of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

## **C. DEFINITIONS**

1. **Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Program (DARP)**. A DoD-designated program that includes all joint Military Department and **defense-wide** reconnaissance development demonstration, and acquisition activities. programs and systems designated by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense or defined by statute or by Presidential direction are part of the DARP.

2. **Defense-Wide Reconnaissance Activities**. Development demonstration, and acquisition program activities under the purview of the Secretary of Defense that concern airborne reconnaissance, including manned and unmanned vehicles, and surface- or ground-based processing systems, the purpose of which is to provide reconnaissance support to multiple DoD Components.

3. **Joint-Service Reconnaissance Activities**. Those airborne reconnaissance development **demonstration**, and acquisition program activities that require the **cooperation, funding**, manning, and/or participation of more than one of the Military **Departments**.

#### **D. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

1. DARO is established under the authority, **direction**, and control of the Under **Secretary** of **Defense** for Acquisition and Technology (**USD(A&T)**) (reference (c)).

2. The Director, DARO, shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense on the **recommendation** of the **USD(A&T)**. The Director shall be a two-star General or Flag **Officer** appointed **from** one of the Military Departments on a rotational basis, or a civilian appointee of equivalent rank. The Director, DARO, shall also serve as the Assistant Deputy Under **Secretary** of **Defense** for Airborne **Reconnaissance** within the office of the Deputy Under **Secretary** of Defense for Advanced Technology (**DUSD(AT)**).

#### **E. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS**

The **Director, Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office**, shall:

1. Develop and maintain the DoD integrated airborne **reconnaissance** architecture for the **development, demonstration**, and acquisition of improved airborne reconnaissance capabilities and provide associated oversight to ensure compliance.

2. Oversee the **DARP**, a component of the Defense General Intelligence and Applications Program of the Joint Military Intelligence Program.

3. Oversee the development **demonstration**, and acquisition of improved airborne reconnaissance capabilities and accomplish system level trade-offs for joint Military Department and Defense-wide manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors, data links, data relays, and associated processing systems to meet validated operational requirements using advanced concept technology demonstrations and innovative acquisition strategies.

4. Select the appropriate Military Department or Defense Agency to manage the development, concept **demonstration**, and/or acquisition of improved airborne reconnaissance capabilities for the DARP in response to validated requirements.

5. Establish and enforce commonality and **interoperability** standards for airborne reconnaissance systems; and serve as the focal point to pursue **interoperability** with collateral and supporting non-airborne reconnaissance systems where technically and operationally applicable.

6. Serve as OSD focal point for policies, standards, and architectures for development and acquisition of airborne reconnaissance capabilities. Such policies, standards, and architectures are to be coordinated with those of the following organizations for the overall U.S. imagery intelligence, signals intelligence, and measurements and signatures intelligence (**MASINT**) systems: the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of **Staff**; the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (**ASD (C3I)**); the Director, Central Imagery Office; the Director, National Security Agency; the Director, Defense Information Systems Agency; the

Director, Central **MASINT** Office; the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency (**DIA**); and other Defense Agencies, as appropriate.

7. With the Director, **DIA** coordinate military intelligence needs, intelligence requirements analyses and prioritization, resource planning and **programming**, exploitation **management**, and intelligence data dissemination.

8. Serve as the OSD **focal** point and advocate for the development and acquisition of improved airborne reconnaissance capabilities to support the Unified Combatant **Commanders**.

9. **Serve** as the principal advisor to the USD (A&T) and the DUSD (AT) for all matters on the policies, systems, resources, and programs of the DARP. For issues related to those DARP programs that are also Acquisition Category I major systems, the USD (**A&T**) shall determine the appropriate forum between the Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Steering Committee (**DARSC**) and the Defense Acquisition Board.

10. Provide program planning and resource guidance to the Military Departments and Defense Agencies for the development of the DARP inputs to the Planning, programming, **and Budgeting System (PPBS)**. Review and approve DARP Program Objective Memorandums (**POMs**) and budget submissions of the Military Departments and Defense Agencies, **in** coordination with the ASD (**C3I**) and appropriate Acquisition Executives, Secretaries of the Military Departments, and **Directors** of Defense Agencies.

11. Develop and support the presentation and justification of the DARP budget requests to Congress **and**, in accordance with DoD policies and procedures, serve as the principal spokesperson with the Congress on the **DARP**.

12. Oversee development of simulations, as appropriate, to evaluate improved concepts and systems for airborne reconnaissance.

13. Support the planning and execution of test and exercise participation, in conjunction with the responsible executive **agent**, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the test and evaluation organizations, the operational test and evaluation organizations, and the users, to provide data for analysis and application to airborne reconnaissance system development and to gain user system acceptance.

14. In conjunction with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Economic Security, **identify** and analyze the industrial base that supports and sustains improved airborne reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities essential to meet future requirements for the Unified Combatant Commands. Ensure industrial base impacts are considered in the planning of airborne reconnaissance capability improvements.

15. Ensure the establishment and management of appropriate security policy and procedures for all elements of the DARP in accordance with applicable statutes, security regulations, directives, and guidelines.

16. In coordination with the ASD (**C3I**), establish mechanisms for coordinating DARP programs with the Department of Defense, other U.S. Government Departments and Agencies,

and allied reconnaissance programs.

17. Serve as an advisor of the **Defense** Resources Board when DARP matters are under **consideration**, and as the Executive Secretary of the DARSC.

18. Serve as a member of the Defense Intelligence Executive **Board**, the Military Intelligence **Board**, and the **Military** Communications and Electronics Board to ensure a coherent airborne reconnaissance architecture.

19. Serve as the principal public spokesperson for the DARP in accordance with established DoD organizational and security policies and procedures in consultation with the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public **Affairs**.

20. Perform other such functions as maybe assigned by the USD **(A&T)**.

## **F. RELATIONSHIPS**

1. In the performance of assigned **functions**, the Director, DARO, shall be under the authority, **direction**, and control of the **USD(A&T)**.

2. The Director, DARO shall:

a. Consult with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of **Staff** and the **Office** of the Under **Secretary** of Defense for Policy when considering issues under their respective purview.

b. Coordinate and exchange information with DoD and other U.S. Government officials having related **functions**.

c. Establish, in **coordination** with the appropriate DoD Components, mechanisms for coordination of DARP activities with other DoD technical efforts.

3. The Heads of the DoD Components shall, as appropriate:

a. Provide advice and support to the Director, **DARO**, on the development and acquisition of airborne reconnaissance capabilities.

b. Perform as executing agent for the development and acquisition of designated airborne reconnaissance systems, and the demonstration of designated advanced technologies in support of the DARP.

c. Execute DARP programs, as approved by the Secretary of Defense. Heads of the DoD Components shall coordinate in advance with the Director, DARO, all proposed transfer, realignment, and/or reprogramming of research, development test and evaluation **(RDT&E)** and/or procurement **funds** from the DARP-designated programs; and for DARP operations and maintenance **(O&M)** and personnel funding, any proposed transfers and/or realignments of **funds** beyond the budget year, including those **in** the Military Departments' and the Defense Agencies' program elements and projects.

d. Provide recommendations in the form of POM and budget submissions to the Director, DARO, for DARO consideration in development of the DARP POM and budget submissions. These recommendations shall be developed as an integral part of the PPBS for the DoD Components.

e. Provide to the Director, DARO, program status, documentation, and reports for designated DARP element programs and related programs and activities, including those being coordinated with the national laboratories and other Federal Agencies.

f. Conduct reviews of **DARP** element programs in support of DARO requirements.

g. **In** conjunction with the **Chairman** of the Joint **Chiefs** of **Staff**, coordinate related initiatives and actions for DoD Component-unique systems and programs with the Director, DARO, to ensure continued fictional **interoperability** in the **DARP's unifying** architecture and acquisition strategy.

4. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff represents the single point of contact for the Military Department and Unified Combatant Commander perspective about the **DARP** and shall:

a. Define and approve Military **Department** and Unified Combatant **Commander** operational concepts and requirements for improved airborne reconnaissance.

b. Forward Joint Requirements Oversight Council-validated requirements for improved airborne reconnaissance capabilities through the Director, DARO, to the **USD(A&T)**.

c. Serve as the **military** focal point for inter-Semite and Unified Combatant Commander policy, standards, architecture, and programs about airborne reconnaissance.

d. **Serve as the** military **focal** point and advocate for airborne reconnaissance **support** to the Unified Combatant Commands.

e. Provide direct support in DARO and/or the ASD (**C3I**) analyses of reconnaissance requirements, exploitation **management**, and data distribution.

5. The ASD (**C3I**) as the principal staff assistant and advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on reconnaissance activities conducted by the DoD Components under DoD Directive 5137.1 (reference (d)) shall:

a. Assess and advise DARO on the effectiveness of DARP activities and planning as they relate to satisfaction of the requirements of the Unified Combatant Commands.

b. Provide the point-of-contact on DARO-related activities between the non-DoD elements of the Intelligence Community and DARO.

6. The Director, Defense Logistics Agency, shall provide administrative support to DARO to include manpower and personnel services.

7. The Director, Washington Headquarters Service, shall support **DARO's** program and budget requirements and accounting **services**.

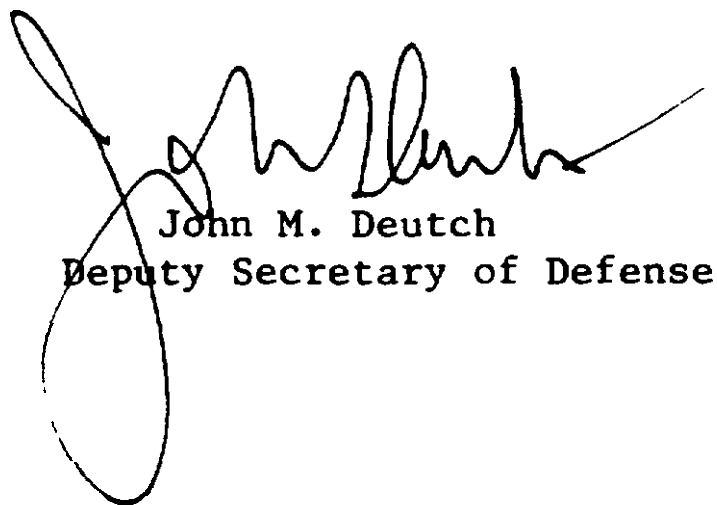
## G. **AUTHORITIES**

The Director, **DARO**, is authorized to:

1. Develop and issue **programming and management guidance for DARP element programs**.
2. **Allocate funds** made available to DARO for assigned research, **development**, and acquisition programs.
3. Approve or disapprove all **transfers, realignments, and/or reprogramming** of **RDT&E** and/or procurement **funds from the DARP-designated** programs **and**, for DARP O&M and personnel tiding, approve or disapprove any proposed transfers and/or realignments of funds beyond the budget year, including funding residing in the program elements and projects of the Military Departments and Defense Agencies.
4. **In** conjunction with **ASD(C3I)**, negotiate agreements, as necessary, with other U.S. Government Agencies to ensure proper coordination and execution of the **DARP**.
5. Establish such **working-level**, in-house committees as may be required to provide **assistance and advice** on the execution of the **DARP**.
6. Communicate directly with the other DoD Components. Communications with the Unified Combatant Commands shall be through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
7. Obtain contract services through a Military Department, a Defense Agency, or other Government Department or Agency, for **supplies, equipment**, and services required to accomplish the DARO mission.

## H. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Directive is effective immediately.



John M. Deutch  
Deputy Secretary of Defense